

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter amended claims 13 and 21 as follows. Marked up versions of the amended claims are provided in the appendix with insertions underlined and deletions in brackets.

13. (twice amended) A multilumen proximal fitting for a multilumen unilimb breathing circuit, comprising a rigid housing forming at least two independent lumens, said lumens comprising a first lumen and a second lumen each having a proximal and a distal end, wherein said fitting may be operatively attached to a multilumen proximal terminal having first and second ports at the distal end of third and fourth lumens so that, when said proximal ends of said first and second lumens of said fitting are operatively attached to said first and second ports respectively the third lumen and said first lumen both form part of a first flow path that is independent of a second flow path that is formed at least in part by said second lumen and the fourth lumen, wherein said fitting is operatively attachable to and detachable from a mating multilumen proximal terminal by a user at a site of use and can be used to operatively connect a multilumen patient respiratory conduit to a proximal terminal of an assisted ventilation or anesthesia machine.

21. (amended) The multilumen proximal fitting of claim 13, further comprising an interface device, wherein said fitting can be operatively attached to and detached from said interface device by a user at a site of use, said interface device comprising a rigid housing having third and fourth lumens defining respectively third and fourth flow paths therein, said third and fourth lumens being independent of each other and each having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal ends of said independent lumens converging at a distal end of said housing so as to be capable of simultaneous operative connection to a unilimb flexible respiratory conduit, and wherein said third and fourth flow paths in said housing diverge from each other proximally of said distal end of said housing so that said proximal end of said third lumen is independently operatively connectable to an inlet for a source of inspiratory gas while said proximal end of said fourth lumen is independently operatively connectable to an expiratory outlet, wherein a